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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/455,331

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Yong-geun Kim

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04/08/2004

SUGHRUE MION ZINN
MACPEAK & SEAS PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 200377060

EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2004

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/455,331

Applicant(s)

KIM, YONG-GEUN

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 6, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tang et al. (US Patent No. 6,160,629).

As to claim 6, Tang teaches a method for printing a confidential document in a printer comprising:

reading print type information received through a communication interface (42 in fig. 3) together with a print data file (col. 4, lines 2-4) and determining whether a user set the print type information to be either general printing or confidential printing with respect to the document file to be printed (col. 7, lines 46-49 and 54-55);

requesting a user to input a secret code when the print type information is set to be confidential printing (col. 7, lines 29-40); and

printing an image corresponding to the print data to paper when the secret code input by the user is the same as the secret code set in the print type information (col. 7, lines 46-49 and 54-55).

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As to claim 8, Tang teaches a method for printing a confidential document in an image printing system including a computer and a printer connected to the computer by a communication interface comprising:

requesting a user to select either general printing or confidential printing of setting a secret code with respect to a document file to be printed on a print type selection menu screen using an input device when there is a print request command through the input device of the computer (fig. 4E and col. 7, lines 36-38);

transferring information, on the selected print type and a print data file obtained by converting the document file into a language for the printer, to the printer; and reading information on the print type transferred to the printer together with the print data file (col. 7, lines 46-50) and requesting the user to input a secret code with respect to a confidential print data file selected to be printed and received (col. 7, lines 29-30 and 54-57);

determining whether the input secret code is the same as the secret code previously set in the print set information; and performing the printing of the received print data file when it is determined that the input secret code is the same as the secret code (col. 7, lines 46-49 and 54-55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang et al. (US Patent No. 6,160,629) in combination with Orr et al. (US Patent No. 4,768,767).

As to claim 1, Tang teaches a printer (10 in fig. 3) comprising:
a controller (22 in fig. 3) for reading print type information sent through a communication interface (42 in fig. 3) together with print data (col. 4, lines 2-4) and determining whether a user selected a confidential print mode or a general print mode, and for performing, when the confidential print mode is selected, the printing of a confidential print data file received when a code that is the same as a secret code set in the received print type information is input through the input unit (col. 7, lines 46-49 and 54-55); and

an engine (20 in fig. 3) controlled by the printer controller for printing an image corresponding to the print data to paper.

However, Tang does not teach the printer controller controls the sound output device to sound the alarm when confidential print data to be printed is received.

Orr teaches the collator electronics checks if an END of JOB message was received, then will signal the printer with a status message (end of job) and turn on an alarm buzzer (col. 10, lines 21-25). Therefore, It would have been obvious to modify the controller of Tang for reading the confidential data from the received print job and controlling the alarm buzzer for notice.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printer of Tang in order to have an alarm unit for sounding, as taught by Orr, when the received print data is the confidential print data. The suggestion for modifying the printer of Tang can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Orr because the modified printer of Tang would be desirable when its printer controller

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has a function for informing the user a message through the buzzer if the confidential print data is received. Therefore, any of the walkup users would easily know the confidential print jobs those are received by the shared printer in the network.

As to claim 3, Tang and Orr disclose every feature in claim 1, and Tang further teaches when received print data to be printed is the confidential print data, the printer controller displays a message through a display device (fig. 7) that the received print data is a confidential document (please see fig. 7 and col. 54-59).

As to claim 4, Tang discloses an image printing system, comprising:

a computer (12 in fig. 2) having a printer driver (18 in fig. 2) for providing a print type menu on the screen of a display device (fig. 4) so that a user can select either general printing (i.e., off object in fig. 4A) or confidential printing (i.e., Private-job object in fig. 4E) with respect to a document file to be printed and outputting the selected print type information and a print data file obtained by converting the document file into a language for a printer (col. 4, lines 2-4) through a communication interface (14 in fig. 2); and

a printer (10 in fig. 3) for reading print type information transferred together with print data through the communication interface and performing printing of a confidential print data file to be printed and received when a code input through an input device is the same as a secret code set in received print type information (please see fig. 7 and col. 7, lines 46-55).

However, Tang does not teach the printer controller controls the sound output device to sound the alarm when confidential print data to be printed is received.

Orr teaches the collator electronics checks if an END of JOB message was received, then will signal the printer with a status message (end of job) and turn on an alarm buzzer (col. 10,

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lines 21-25). Therefore, It would have been obvious to modify the controller of Tang for reading the confidential data from the received print job and controlling the alarm buzzer for notice.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printer of Tang in order to have an alarm unit for sounding, as taught by Orr, when the received print data is the confidential print data. The suggestion for modifying the printer of Tang can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Orr because the modified printer of Tang would be desirable when its printer controller has a function for informing the user a message through the buzzer if the confidential print data is received. Therefore, any of the walkup users would easily know the confidential print jobs those are received by the shared printer in the network.

As to claim 5, Tang and Orr disclose every feature discussed in claim 4, and Tang further teaches the communication interface (42 in fig. 2) is a network for relaying the switching of information between a plurality of computers and at least one printer (10 in fig. 2).

As to claim 7, Tang teaches every feature in claim 6.

However, Tang does not teach of sounding an alarm for informing this fact to the user when the received print type information is set to be confidential printing.

Orr teaches the collator electronics checks if an END of JOB message was received, then will signal the printer with a status message (end of job) and turn on an alarm buzzer (col. 10, lines 21-25). Therefore, It would have been obvious to modify the controller of Tang for reading the confidential data from the received print job and controlling the alarm buzzer for notice.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printer of Tang in order to have an alarm unit for sounding, as

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taught by Orr, when the received print data is the confidential print data. The suggestion for modifying the printer of Tang can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Orr because the modified printer of Tang would be desirable when its printer controller has a function for informing the user a message through the buzzer if the confidential print data is received. Therefore, any of the walkup users would easily know the confidential print jobs those are received by the shared printer in the network.

As to claim 9, Tang teaches every feature in claim 8.

However, Tang does not teach of sounding an alarm for informing this fact to the user when the received print type information is set to be confidential printing.

Orr teaches the collator electronics checks if an END of JOB message was received, then will signal the printer with a status message (end of job) and turn on an alarm buzzer (col. 10, lines 21-25). Therefore, It would have been obvious to modify the controller of Tang for reading the confidential data from the received print job and controlling the alarm buzzer for notice.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printer of Tang in order to have an alarm unit for sounding, as taught by Orr, when the received print data is the confidential print data. The suggestion for modifying the printer of Tang can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Orr because the modified printer of Tang would be desirable when its printer controller has a function for informing the user a message through the buzzer if the confidential print data is received. Therefore, any of the walkup users would easily know the confidential print jobs those are received by the shared printer in the network.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see page 8, filed 1/22/04, with respect to the rejection of claims 2, 7, 9 under 103 rejection have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 9 has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Orr et al. This action is made **non-final**.

Applicant argued to claims 6 and 8, in page 7 that "Tang does not teach of requesting a user to input a secret code when the print type information is set to be confidential printing". In reply, Tang clearly teaches of requesting a user to input a secret code when the print type information is set to be confidential printing (col. 7, lines 29-40). If the control panel does not request a user to input a secret code how can the printer know to print the confidential print job?

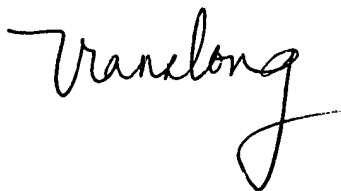
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran

Apr. 03, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tranlong", with a stylized flourish at the end.